



MEDIA RELEASE

City of Medicine Hat - 500 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E8 - (403) 502-8071

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GRAFFITI REMOVAL CONTINUES

Medicine Hat – The removal of graffiti throughout Medicine Hat continues to be a priority for the City.

In May 2006, City Council approved a budget of \$150,000 to eradicate existing graffiti on City-owned structures and facilities. So far, \$68,000 has been spent to remove or cover graffiti. More than 840 items or structures were identified for graffiti removal.

The focus for the first phase of removal was commercial garbage bins and Electric Utility structures. The focus then moved to signs and facilities as well as street and traffic light poles, then to the retaining walls and the pedestrian overpass on Altwana Drive.

"It was unfortunate that many of the buildings that were painted in both Kin Coulee and South Ridge parks had to be repainted throughout the year and one building three times as the graffiti had been reapplied," says Les Wickenheiser, General Manager of the Corporate Asset Management department, which is leading the graffiti cleanup. "The removal of profane and vulgar graffiti will always be a priority."

The public can report graffiti through "Report a Problem" on the City's website www.medicinehat.ca or by contacting Bylaw Enforcement. Bylaw determines who is responsible for the removal and contacts the appropriate party.

"The response from the public has been positive," adds Wickenheiser. "Staff working on the removal of graffiti has been commended by the public. Business owners commented on how great it was to have the commercial garbage bins cleaned which improves the appearance of their alleyways."

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